

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at lines 27 – 28 on page 1 of the specification with the following new paragraph:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/981,454 filed October 17, 2001, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 08/703,805 filed August 27, 1996 now abandoned, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 08/378,344 filed January 26, 1995 now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial Application No. 08/252,874 filed June 2, now U.S. Patent 5,550,281.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 30 of page 4 and ending at line 10 of page 5 with the following paragraph:

In another preferred embodiment of the present invention, the fluid bed catalyst utilized to practice the process of the present invention comprises a catalyst having the following formula: Pd-M-A wherein M comprises Ba, Au, Cd, Bi, Cu, Mn, Fe, Co, Ce, U and mixtures thereof, and A comprises an alkali metal or mixtures thereof (preferable potassium. Typically, the weight percent of the palladium and alkali metal in the catalyst are 0.1 to 5.0 wt% palladium, preferably 0.5 to 2.0 wt%; alkali greater than 0 to 10wt%, preferably 0.012 to 5 wt%. In addition, the weight percent of M may range from 0 to about 5 wt%, preferably greater than 0 to 5 wt%, especially preferred being 0.1 to 3 wt%. The fluid bed catalyst is manufactured according to the procedures set forth in copending patent application Serial No. 08/252,800 now U.S. Patent 5,536,693, Atty Docket No. MFE-P-7114, assigned to the assignee of the instant application and herein incorporated by reference.

Please replace the paragraph at lines 18 – 26 of page 5 with the following paragraph:

In a still further preferred embodiment of the present invention, the fluid bed catalyst contains at least 60% of the catalyst particles at a diameter of below 200 microns (0.2 mm) (~~0.4 mm~~) and no more than 40% of the particles possessing a diameter being less than 40 microns (0.04 mm).